

Substance Use and Suicide Prevention Newsletter

3rd Missouri Suicide Prevention Coalition Academy

Suicide prevention coalitions are invited to apply for the Missouri Suicide Prevention Coalition Academy, a two-day training designed to increase coalitions' capacity to implement sustainable evidence-based suicide prevention efforts in their communities. Coalitions will learn information and skills necessary to be successful, such as how to develop a strategic plan and implement strategies for effective suicide prevention.

There is no cost for coalitions to participate. Project funding will cover travel and lodging. Applications are due by **1/31/25**. Learn more about the academy, eligibility requirements, and download the application on the [Missouri Suicide Prevention Coalition Academy webpage](#). To register for one of four informational webinars, visit the [webinar registration webpage](#).



Missouri DMH Prevention Websites

Learn more about [Missouri DMH's substance use prevention programs](#).

Learn more about [Missouri DMH's suicide prevention programs](#).



Save the Date!

What: Substance Abuse Prevention Skills Training (SAPST)

When: December 9-12, 2024

Where: State Line Road, Kansas City
Register for the [SAPST training](#).

What: Missouri Suicide Prevention Conference

When: July 17, 2025

Where: Holiday Inn and Expo Center, Columbia

What: Missouri Substance Use Prevention Conference

When: October 28-30, 2025

Where: Holiday Inn and Expo Center, Columbia

Missouri Student Survey

The Missouri Student Survey (MSS) is conducted in even-numbered years to track risk behaviors of students in grades 6-12 attending public schools in Missouri. This survey provides valuable information for prevention providers, schools, parents, and communities.

The survey provides insight regarding:

- Substance use trends;
- Perception of harm of substance use (alcohol, marijuana, and other drugs);
- Student's perception of their peer's acceptance of substance use (alcohol, marijuana, and other drugs);
- Self-harm, suicidal ideation, and attempts.

Learn more about the [2024 Missouri Student Survey](#).

Prevention Resource Center Accomplishments 2024

The Missouri Prevention Resource Centers work in concert with DMH registered community coalitions to increase prevention capacity across the state. An annual report is compiled to highlight accomplishments and success stories.

Highlights from July 2023-June 2024 include:

- 472,310 Missourians served;
- 11 new prescription medication drop boxes installed;
- 6,627 tobacco education visits to merchants who sell tobacco products.

Learn more about [Prevention Resource Center Accomplishments](#).

Missouri State Epidemiological Profile

The State Epidemiological Profile provides an overview of the current available data on substance use and mental health across Missouri, including subpopulation data where possible. This resource can be used by prevention providers as secondary data to learn the most recent national comparisons on the topic of substance use and mental health.

Additionally, this report provides:

- Missouri substance use key findings;
- Information about risk and protective factors;
- Gaps in data;
- Information about high-risk populations.

Learn more about the [Missouri State Epidemiological Profile](#).

Suicide Prevention Conference

The annual Missouri Suicide Prevention Conference aims to raise awareness of suicide prevention, foster support for Missourians who have been impacted by suicide, and provide education about best practices for suicide prevention. More than 600 prevention professionals and community members attended this year's conference in Cape Girardeau.

Conference highlights:

- Nationally recognized speakers presented topics such as turning pain from loss into purpose and upstream suicide prevention approaches.
- A panel of crisis services professionals discussed how the state of Missouri is navigating the behavioral health crisis, Missouri's crisis service response, and the power of 988.
- Awards were given to Amber Berry (Loss Survivor Award), Shawni Miller (Suicide Innovation Award), Bart Andrews (Lived Experience Award), and Elizabeth (Liz) Sale (Lifetime Achievement Award).

Mark your calendars for July 17, 2025 for the next annual conference.

Suicide Coalition Academy

The 2024 Community-Led Suicide Prevention Academy took place in August with seven coalitions and 32 members in attendance. The academy is based on the Education Development Center's (EDC) 7 Elements of Community-Led Suicide Prevention. Learn more about the [EDC's 7 Elements of Community-Led Suicide Prevention](#).

Suicide Prevention Coalitions Attending:

- EBJ Callaway Community Suicide Prevention Coalition
- Iron County Health Coalition
- Lafayette County Veterans Suicide Prevention Coalition
- Maryville Partners in Prevention
- Northwest Missouri Suicide Prevention Coalition
- Taney County Suicide Prevention Network
- Webster County COMMUNITY Partnership



Facilitators: (from left to right)
Chris Davis, Margo Leitschuh, Joan Masters, Kirsten Sierra, Whitney Shumway, and Elizabeth Makulec



Suicide Prevention Academy Participants

Zero Suicide Academy

Zero Suicide is a transformational framework with a foundational belief that suicide deaths for those under the care of health and behavioral health systems can be prevented. For nearly a decade, the state of Missouri has hosted an annual Zero Suicide Academy for healthcare providers. This year's annual Missouri Zero Suicide Academy included 17 teams from health and behavioral health organizations across the state. Teams learned the components of the Zero Suicide model, best practices, and how to implement Zero Suicide into their organizations. National and local speakers shared success stories and offered insight into finding solutions to organizational challenges. The next Zero Suicide Academy will take place on August 25, 2025. Mental health and substance use treatment providers are encouraged to attend.

Learn more about the outcomes of [Zero Suicide in the state of Missouri](#).



FREE Trainings

MO Ask Listen Refer is a training designed to help Missourians prevent suicide by increasing their knowledge about warning signs and protective factors, identifying people at risk for suicide, and how to respond when someone needs help. **Learn more about the [MO Ask Listen Refer training](#).**

HealthEKnowledge is a website that provides free substance use and suicide prevention trainings. Create a free account to access trainings such as Advanced Ethics for Prevention Professionals. **Learn more about [HealthEKnowledge](#).**

The Prevention Technology Transfer Center (PTTC) Network provides free virtual trainings in the field of substance use prevention. **Learn more about [PTTC](#).**

Learn more about the [Prevention Resource Network](#) and view information about [upcoming trainings](#).